

Dear Child Care Provider,

Attached to this message please find a copy of Bright from the Start's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking dated September 29, 2009, along with copies of proposed amendments to the Rules for Child Care Learning Centers, Group Day Care Homes and Family Day Care Homes.

Previously, Bright from the Start issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on June 19, 2009 regarding proposed amendments to the rules. A public hearing to receive comments on the proposed rule amendments was held on July 23, 2009.

In response to the oral comments made at the July 2009 Public Hearing, written comments submitted in response to the June 19, 2009 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and suggestions made at the community forums held by the Department in August 2009, Bright from the Start has fine tuned and made revisions to the credential rules (Rule 591-1-1-.31 and Rule 290-2-1-.09) and the securing equipment and furniture rules (Rule 591-1-1-.12, Rule 290-2-1-.12 and Rule 290-2-3-.12).

The following revisions have been made to the proposed amendments to the **Credential Rules**:

- A variety of credentials will be accepted for director and lead teacher, including:
  - The Department will recognize the experience of a director, along with training, by accepting a minimum of 5 years experience as a director of a child care learning center or an administrator/director of a group day care home, with completion of the 40 hour director training course, as meeting the credential requirement.
  - More credential options are available. Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) in various areas, such as Infant and Toddler, Program Administration and School Age and Youth Care, will be accepted for center directors, center lead teachers and group day care home administrators.
- We have provided credential requirements for staff in after school programs for school-age children that give programs flexibility in meeting staffing requirements.
- The three (3) year phase-in period is retained for credential requirements. These rules would be effective on Dec. 1, 2012.
- We have provided flexibility for centers to hire new staff that may not possess the required credential after Dec. 1, 2012. Newly hired lead teachers who do not

possess the required credential or degree would be required to enroll in a credential/degree program within six (6) months of hire and to complete the program within eighteen (18) months after enrollment. This gives a new hire a two (2) year period to obtain credential.

The following revisions have been made to the proposed amendments to the **Securing Equipment and Furniture Rules**:

- The language has been revised to provide more clarity to child care providers.
- Examples of potentially unstable equipment and furniture are provided.
- Examples of items not required to be secured are provided.

A public hearing will be held on Saturday November 7, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in Macon, Georgia at the Central Georgia Technical College, "H" Building: Auditorium, 3300 Macon Tech Drive, Macon, Georgia 31206 concerning the rules that Bright from the Start proposes to amend.

All interested persons and parties are encouraged to comment on the proposed rule revisions by either submitting written comments to the Department or making oral comments at the public hearing. Please note that written comments are given the same consideration by the Department as oral comments.

Please review the attached Notice of Proposed Rulemaking dated September 29, 2009 for further details on the proposed revisions to specified rules, the public hearing and submission of written comments. To view the proposed rule amendments to the Rules for Child Care Learning Centers, Group Day Care Homes and Family Day Care Homes please see Bright from the Start's website at <http://dec.al.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/ProposedRevisions.aspx>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justine Strickland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" that extends downwards and to the left.

Justine Strickland  
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care & Child Care Policy

Attachment: September 29, 2009 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking